Hs.A.1.1 v.7, p.92A

Roxbury, Nov. 4, 1868.

Dear Wendell:

As you have already been informed by Harry and Frank, for a week past your mother has been seriously ill. She had for several weeks previous a persistent cough, which troubled her a good deal day and night, causing her to expectorate very freely, and this suddenly ceasing, caused such a congestion of the lungs and so affected the action of the heart as really to imperil her life. I watched with her last night, and she got some sleep in a recumbent position, sitting in her chair; but she was not able to lie down on her bed. — Any attempt to do so has made her wild with apprehension, she feeling as though she were suffocating. She is, however, really more comfortable to-day, and looks quite natural in the face, and has enjoyed the company of Lucy Thaxter very much, who has kindly spent the day with her.

Dr. Geist thinks she has passed the crisis, and we may hope for her convalescence. Her legs are badly swollen, especially the paralyzed one, which has a very livid appearance. I am not free from apprehension, but feel more hopeful than I did yesterday. You shall have another letter by to-morrow's mail, when I hope to be able to announce still further improvement. Miss Andrews is doing quite as much service as the Doctor, and both can work together. Your mother has never had such an attack before, and her danger constantly lies in dropsy on the one hand, and congestion of the lungs or heart on the other. She may yet rally, and be as comfortable as hitherto. Let us hope for the best, and be prepared for the worst.

With a father's love for Emma and you, and as many kisses as you choose for Lucy and Lloyd, and kindest remembrances to Mrs. McKim, I remain, in haste,

Your affectionate Father.

Ms. A. 1.1 v. 7, p. 72 A